MAIL STOP ISSUE FEE

IN THE CLAIMS

1-232. (Cancelled)

233. (Previously presented) A method of providing a connector to a blood vessel, comprising:

providing a distal end of a hole puncher adjacent a blood vessel;

punching a hole in the blood vessel, by the hole puncher;

transporting a connector including at least one spike for attaching to the blood vessel through a lumen of the hole puncher, while the distal end of the hole puncher is adjacent the blood vessel; and

engaging the blood vessel punched by the hole puncher, by the at least one spike,

wherein transporting the connector through the lumen comprises transporting the connector from a proximal end of the hole puncher to the distal end of the hole puncher.

234. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 233, wherein providing the distal end of the hole puncher ~~against~~ adjacent the ~~outer wall~~blood vessel comprises pressing the hole puncher against an~~the~~ outer wall of the blood vessel.

235. (cancelled)

236. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 233, comprising removing a sub-assembly of the hole puncher from a channel of the hole puncher, while the hole puncher is adjacent the blood vessel and transporting the connector through the channel from which the sub-assembly was removed.

237. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 236, wherein removing the sub-assembly comprises removing a central cutter and a surrounding sheath.

238. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 236, wherein removing the sub-assembly comprises removing a central cutter while a surrounding sheath, that participated in the punching of the hole, remains with an end adjacent the blood vessel.

239. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 233, wherein transporting the connector through the lumen is performed while the hole puncher is in contact with the blood vessel.

240. (Previously presented)A method of treating a blood vessel, comprising:

providing a hole puncher, including a tissue engager and a surrounding sheath, adjacent a blood vessel;

punching a hole in the blood vessel by the hole puncher, utilizing the surrounding sheath;

removing the tissue engager from a channel of the hole puncher, while the surrounding sheath, utilized in the punching, remains in the vicinity of the blood vessel; and

transporting a tool other than the tissue engager through the channel, to the vicinity of the blood vessel.

241. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 240, wherein the tool other than the tissue engager comprises a connector.

242. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 241, wherein the connector comprises at least one spike.

243. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 240, wherein punching the hole is performed utilizing both the tissue engager and the surrounding sheath.

244. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 240, wherein the tissue engager includes an indent adapted to engage a wall of the blood vessel.

245. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 240, wherein the tissue engager has a sharp distal end adapted to penetrate a hole in the blood vessel.

246. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 240, wherein the tissue engager is rotatable while being adjacent the blood vessel.

247. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 246, wherein the tissue engager is rotatable relative to the outer sheath, while being adjacent the blood vessel.

248. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 240, wherein the tissue engager is adapted to be vibrated while being adjacent the blood vessel.

249. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 240, wherein punching a hole in the blood vessel comprises rotating the tissue engager adjacent the blood vessel.

250. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 249, wherein punching a hole in the blood vessel comprises rotating the tissue engager, relative to the outer sheath, adjacent the blood vessel.

251. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 240, wherein punching a hole in the blood vessel comprises vibrating the tissue engager adjacent the blood vessel.

252. (Cancelled)

253. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 240, wherein transporting the tool through the channel comprises transporting the tool through the channel after removing the tissue engager from the channel.